

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 DRC-01 /148 W

----- 016208

R 201200Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6515

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 1336

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MI, PO, MZ

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE-MALAWI RELATIONS: NEW BORDER INCIDENT

1. DR. JOAO PROENCA, PORTUGUESE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, INFORMED EMBASSY SEPT 19 OF SERIOUS NEW BORDER INCIDENT IN MANGOCHÉ DISTRICT. INCIDENT OCCURRED SEPT 12 WHEN PORTUGUESE AIRCRAFT FIRED ROCKETS INTO VILLAGE IN MALAWI TERRITORY, KILLING ONE MALAWIAN AND INJURING NUMBER OF OTHERS. PROENCA WAS SUMMONED BY PRESIDENT BANDA (ON TOUR IN CENTRAL REGION) SEPT 15 TO GIVE ACCOUNTING. ACCORDING PROENCA, PRESIDENT DEMANDED FULL INVESTIGATION AND COMPENSATION FOR MALAWI CITIZENS INCURRING LOSS.

2. PROENCA STATED THIS SERIOUS INCIDENT BEYOND POWER OF USUAL PORTUGUESE-MALAWI LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS TO SMOOTH OVER. HE ACKNOWLEDGED PORTUGUESE RESPONSIBILITY AND EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION THAT INCIDENT OCCURRED DESPITE STRONG INJUNCTIONS
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BY PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER CAETANO THAT PORTUGUESE FORCES

OBSERVE INVIOABILITY OF MALAWI BORDER. BASED ON RECENT THREE-WEEK TRIP MADE TO MOZAMBIQUE, PROENCA WAS IMPRESSED WITH DETERMINATION OF PORTUGUESE FORCES TO OBSERVE RESTRICTION. NEW DEVELOPMENT WAS ALL THE MORE REGRETTABLE IN THIS LIGHT.

3. DATT HAS SEPARATE REPORT THAT DETACHMENT MALAWI ARMY SENT TO SAME AREA TO INVESTIGATE.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT DURING PAST MONTH FRELIMO ELEMENTS FROM AROUND CATUR AREA OF MOZAMBIQUE HAVE OPERATED NEAR MALAWI BORDER AND PERHAPS INTO MALAWI. REPORTS ALSO EXIST THAT THESE FRELIMO MOVEMENTS RESULTED IN CONTACTS BETWEEN FRELIMO AND MALAWI SECURITY FORCES. PORTUGUESE ACTION DESCRIBED ABOVE MAY RELATE TO FRELIMO PRESENCE IN MALAWI TERRITORY. MINOR BORDER PROBLEMS OCCUR REGULARLY, BUT THIS IS FIRST KNOWN SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT POTENTIALLY AFFECTING GOM-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS IN APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR. MALAWI-FRELIMO RELATIONS MAY ALSO BE UNDER SOME STRESS.
BURDETT

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